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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 269

17 June 1958

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1. The following were present:

Mr. D. J. Clinton	State
Mr. J. A. Minogue	Army
Lt. D. P. Harvey	Navy
Lt. Col. H. K. Avery	Air Force
Mr. Chas. P. Berney	Air Force
25X1A9a	CIA (Chairman)
	CIA (Secretary)

2. Changes in NIS Production Schedules

a. The members submitted their agencies' proposed changes for the FY 1959 NIS Production Schedule. OBI will prepare a revised consolidated production schedule and submit it to the members for review before the next meeting (refer to Item 5 NCM 267).

b. The Committee approved a request from the Department of the Navy contained in memorandum dated 9 June 1958 to reschedule Section 36 (Merchant Marine) on [redacted] from January to August 1958, because of marked changes in the area after the section had neared completion, and subsequent production difficulties encountered when revision of statistical tables was undertaken. The Navy member noted that [redacted] today is the world's largest shipbuilder, and therefore Navy considers it important that the section should be as accurate and complete as possible.

c. The Committee approved a verbal request from the State member to reschedule Section 55 (National Policies) on NIS 3 (France) from March 1958 to March 1959 because of recent fundamental changes in the area which necessitate rewriting the section.

d. The State member proposed that NIS 3 (France) be substituted for NIS 4 (Netherlands) in the FY 1959 production schedule for NIS Annuals (refer to Item 2 NCM 268). The Committee will consider this proposal at the next meeting.

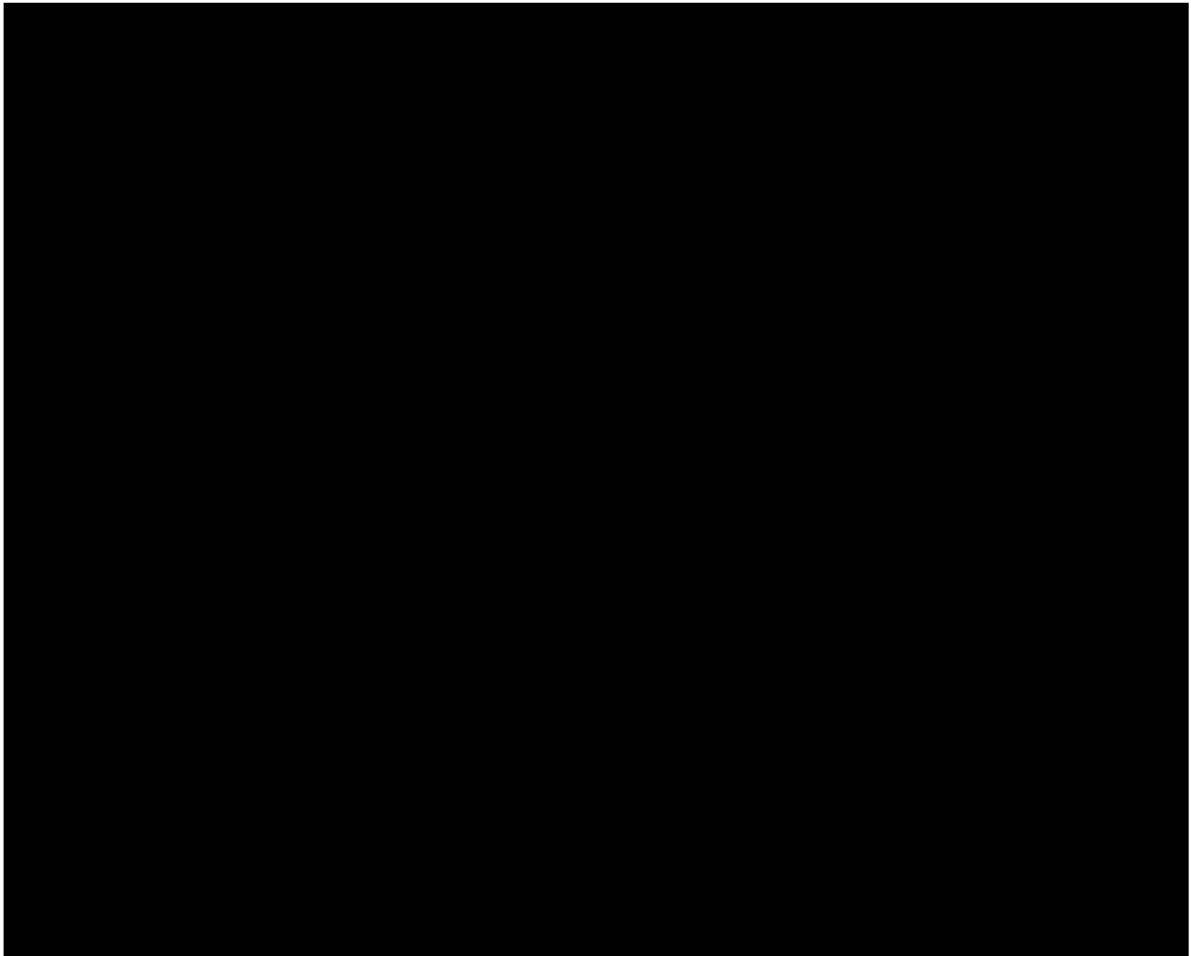
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3. Current NIS Production Status

The chairman reviewed the current production status and noted that percentagewise there was a slight upward movement to 75% by the end of May, but there still remains an accumulated defection of 180 sections for production in June for full completion of the schedule.

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5. Designation of NIS Area 81B

The State member noted that the British Virgin Islands should be included under the title designation for NIS Area 81B in addition to Bermuda and the Bahama Islands, the new title being: Bermuda, the Bahama Islands, and the British Virgin Islands (refer to Item 4 NCM 249).

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6. "Comments on Principal Sources" for NIS Chapter I

The Army member recommended by memorandum dated 6 June 1958 that the NIS Committee reconsider the present policy of non-mandatory control of "Comments on Principal Sources" for Chapter I. He further recommended that the NIS Committee consider the desirability of consolidating into a final section the "Comments on Principal Sources" for Sections 12 through 18 of Chapter I, so that it could readily be removed from the printed Chapter I should release of the chapter to foreign nationals otherwise be considered in the interests of the United States.

The Army member voiced his belief that these recommendations would improve the readability of Chapter I for many users who are not interested in sources, as well as for those who have special interest in this aspect of intelligence and who cannot get a unified appraisal of the adequacy of sources. He added that, in his opinion, it is less likely that security breaches might occur through failure to recognize the significance of the total evaluation of sources presented in the present format.

The chairman discussed the recommendations at some length: The traditional position of the Committee with respect to "Comments on Principal Sources" is reflected in the NIS Standard Instructions. The Comments were placed in context with each section in order "to provide an evaluation of the principal source material used in preparing the section and thereby inform the user of the general credibility to be accorded the intelligence contained in the section." This is the most important function of "Comments on Principal Sources," which are most useful when placed in context with the intelligence to which they relate. To group all Comments together in one section destroys this relationship.

The question of non-mandatory control of Comments of Chapter I was thoroughly discussed by the Committee at its 222nd meeting. It was adopted for the expressed purpose of permitting release to foreign governments of those Chapters I that, except for the mandatory control of Comments, would otherwise be releasable in the interests of the United States. Experience has shown few Chapters I that were controlled solely on the basis of "Comments on Principal Sources," inasmuch as the Comments are generalized and do not reveal specific sources, as do the Comments in the detailed sections of Chapters II through VIII, and the NIS Supplements.

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In summarizing his views, the chairman stated that it is of primary importance in fulfillment of the NIS mission to keep NIS users, particularly the high-level users, fully informed on the credibility to be accorded intelligence contained in Chapters I; it is of secondary importance to that mission to release Chapters I to foreign governments when they have already received the more detailed basic intelligence contained in the other chapters and supplements from which the Chapters I have been derived.

The Committee decided to defer further consideration of the question until the next meeting.

7. Other Matters

a. The Committee agreed to review Chapter I on NIS 17 (Italy) at the next meeting.

b. The chairman invited the members to submit by the next meeting comments on NIS matters which have developed within their agencies during the past year for his guidance in preparation of the NIS Annual Report (refer to Item 6 NCM 245).

c. The members were handed forms for nominating personnel for NIS Commendations (refer to Item 7 NCM 268). The chairman asked the members to submit their nominations by 30 June.

d. The chairman read to the Committee memorandum dated 20 June 1958 from the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence announcing the designation of [REDACTED] (Code 143 - Extension 3330) as Section 45 NIS Coordinator, vice [REDACTED]

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8. The next meeting of the NIS Committee will be held at 1000 hours on Thursday, 26 June 1958 [REDACTED]

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